



Seasons Greetings!

Thank you for being such a wonderful friend of NEAF, and for your participation in and support of our NEAF activities during 2022.

As NEAF President, I've loved seeing Friends and Members join our lectures and events by zoom from around Australia, the world, and where possible, in person.

Acknowledging NEAF support

Your support of our events creates funding for grants for archaeological research. Thank you for supporting our grant programme. I am pleased to tell you that we have just awarded grants to three amazing young archaeologists. I look forward to sharing their stories and plans with you when the University scholarships office says I can! If you'd like to make an end of year donation to NEAF, you may do so [here](#). Thank you!

Some of us are packing our bags for the 2023 Pella in Jordan season. NEAF is proud to help support the Pella Project and we look forward to sharing news of volunteer experiences and archaeological discoveries with you in the New Year. Find out about volunteering for future Pella seasons [here](#).

2023 and beyond

- Would you like to join us as a Member? Its easy to do [here](#). If you are a Student, it is FREE!
- Save the date! The **NEAF Annual General Meeting (AGM)** is on Wednesday 22 March 2023 at 6.30pm. I am delighted to announce our speaker will be Dr Robert Bowker, a former Australian Ambassador to Jordan, Egypt and Syria. He has a great personal interest in middle eastern archaeology and culture and will talk about his book '*Tomorrow there will be Apricots*'.
- Dates for the **2023 lectures and events** programmes will be circulated soon. Look forward to more wonderful lectures and seminars delivered by expert archaeologists.
- New fun cultural events such as **food tours** are being planned by the NEAF Council. The inaugural *NEAF Food and Festive Safari* to Fairfield was sold out, with much enthusiasm, eating, shopping and learning about multicultural Sydney.
- Also, I plan to hold some 'crafty' **artisanal workshops** on ancient crafts and techniques. How about giving Roman stone mosaic a try?

Tours

Yes, tours are back! Ben Churcher and Dr John Tidmarsh are kindly supporting NEAF through their magnificent tour efforts with Academy Travel. Explore the [2023 tour programme](#), including Karen Hendrix's Alumni Travel tour to Egypt.

[NEAF Membership – the unique Christmas gift](#)

NEAF membership is a great Christmas present for the friend, family member, colleague, or young person who has everything. Be part of a strong community exploring the wonders of the ancient Near East together. For details on membership types, benefits and pricing, see our [Membership page](#)

[NEAF website and podcasts](#)

As you ease into a relaxing holiday period, explore the [NEAF website](#) and pop on the earphones to listen to some exciting [NEAF podcasts](#). You'll find some fascinating archaeological talks on topics from ancient glass, favourite finds from Pella, and Australia's history of archaeological excavation and research in Cyprus.

With best wishes for the Festive Season and look forward to seeing you next year.

**Dr Peta Seaton AM and the NEAF Council
President, NEAF**